ROBERT EDWARD LEE

As Seen Through the Spectacles of Charles Francis Adams in His Oration at the Lee Centennial Celebration, Lexington, Va., Jan. 19.

By GEORGE EDWIN JEPSON, Post 81. G. A. R., Watertown, Mass.

"Patriotism," said the splenetic Dr Johnson, striding his hobby horse during a symposium at the club, "patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel!" Whether Oliver Goldsmith, David Garrick, Joshua Reynolds, Topham race or people rendered homogeneous Beauclerc and other coadjutors of the by a central Government, by common great seven-tailed Bashaw of English laws, literature laid finger on nose and winked askantly at each other at the oblique dictum of their chief, is not knownaltho they probably did so-simply because Recorder Boswell was too intent on catching the pearls of wisdom as they flowed from his hero's lips to nothey flowed from his hero's lips to no-tice any such little side play that might central authority. If in the latter case

patriotism has been the fashion of part of the central Government, but cynics in many ages. To wrest it from its one and only meaning has been the practise of demagogs from time immemorial. But the quality of patriotism, like that of mercy, is not strained. It is incapable per se of a divided or twofold interpretation. Webster's Dictionary defines the term as "the passion which aims to serve one's country, eith. tempt at resisting tyranny or sanctified er in defending it from invasion or as an impulse of pure and self-devoted onel remained loyal to the Government, when a Northern man and a former patriotism? Can it be designated by A trying incident that came under the Union soldier waxes eloquent, if also protecting its rights and maintaining protecting its rights and maintaining any other names than those of treason its laws and institutions in vigor and and rebellion and its participants by purity. Patriotism is the characteristic of a good citizen, the noblest passion traitors? Not surely patriots, accordally. The army was in the vicinity of ruin of his country, and who employed that animates a man in the character

And the same authority defines patriot as "a person who loves his country and scalously supports and defends it and its interests." And that other Webster, the Great Expounder,

it were, in a mantle of benevolent exactly what Lee did!' euphonistic sentiment that, like char-

ertain shibboleth of "no taxation without representation" and one or two little things like that.

And now we are presented with a new postulate—or shall we say dispensition?—on the same theme, to the effect that our "erring brothers" of the South were as patriotic in the definitive sense that they loved their native cour try as were we of the North who of fered our lives in the effort to reunite the "broken and dismembered frag-ments of a once glorious Union," which always in the name of an exalted pa triotism, of course, they did their best to destroy.

One's country in the modern sense i a geographical expression which defines certain terrestrial limits inhabited by a language and social institutions practically interchangeable. of Government there are venience usually subdivisions, as of Provinces Cantons, Colonies, States. From these subdivisions there may arise local questions of polity that tend to evolve cer tain antagonisms on the part of one Province against another or on the part e going on.

To belittle the quality and name of any oppressive or invidious act on the arises from a restless and intolerant ambition on the part of a section to dominate and control in its own sectional interests the benevolence and the political legislation of the Government, and in its failure to accomplish this it erects the red flag of revolt and plunges the Nation into the horrors of civil war, can that act by any code of morals or ethics be commended as a heroic ating to the accepted definition-"a person who loves his country and zealously supports and defends it and its inter-

probably possesses as much value as a opened the door. It was his favorite chief be erected in the city of Wash-contribution to eternal truth as the ipse sister. She stared repellantly at him, ington. has, if not in direct terms, at least sub-stantially in countless instances, held dirit of Mr. Charles Francis Adams, then before he could speak and withvivid eloquence and matchless who in his oration at the Washington periods the sentiment of love of coun- and Lee University, at Lexington, Va., try as second only to the Christian's on the 19th ultimo in commemoration of God.

These definitions have been deduced Gen. Robert E. Lee, made out the rebel from the experience of all ages, and leader constructively to be an exemplary have sufficed hitherto to fix the meaning of the term patriotism to the gen-eral approval of mankind. Within re-deed, admits that his hero in abjur cent years there seems to have arisen a convention on the part of certain college dignitaries, historians and political orators, either out of an amiable distinction may exist, whether of high the convention of the commence of the convention of t

well dropt out of the vocabularies of conscience, the spirit of loyalty and the these kind-hearted people, and designation of the Union implanted in their tions substituted so meilifluous to the hearts, refused to do "what Lee did." ear that they are warranted not to rasp There were both humble and aristothe acutest sensibilities. For instance, cratic families, loyal to the core and it is not good form in polite circles, steadfast in their faith, scattered thrueven in Boston, that erstwhile cradle of out Virginia, in which state Mr. Adams the Revolution and where at least two asserts that "the original spirit of State Adamses, John and Samuel, were wont sovereignty existed in greater intensity" Adamses, John and Samuel, were wont in town meeting and elsewhere to expound sound principles of equal rights and draw broad distinctions between the terms patriots and traitors—it is not good form there nowadays to mention the word Torles. Probably the ungentle name would be tabooed even at Chapter meeting of the Massachusetts Historical Society, which at a Chapter meeting of the Revolution or of the Massachusetts Historical Society, which is interested and society which is greater intensity" the Government—waited without sign or word, or resigning as one would brown the dark for the Union, Esto Perpetua."

The Union, Esto Perpetua."

Recent events for the ultimate failure of the rebellion. He lays great stress or word, or resigning as one would be those than it did anywhere else. Regiments or word, or resigning as one would be those of the vollable of loyal Virginians fought thru the war for the Union, Esto Perpetua."

The Union, Esto Perpetua."

Recent events for the ultimate failure of the rebellion. He lays great stress one would be those of the collapse of the same through the collapse of the ultimate failure of the rebellion. He lays great stress one would the collapse of the same through the collapse of the union. If did anywhere else is the collapse of the same through the collapse of the s President, Charles Francis Adams, in conductation of the probably thought he had saved Arling-plied to the late Robert E. Lee. Those ton, by so doing, they could not make at least had the courage of their point of the late Robert E. Lee. Those ton, by so doing, they could not make at least had the courage of their opinthem, are now merely loyalists, and it and chose exile and poverty instead them, are now merely loyalists, and it and chose exile and poverty instead them.

were equally patriotic in the sense that they as fondly loved their native land as did their triumphant rebel brothers, differing with them only concerning a communities here and there. Indeed, communities here and there. Indeed, if the Union and conservative elements thruout the Old Dominion could have been strongly organized and properly led the State would never have passed the ordinance of Secession.

The writer, during three years' campaigning over pretty much every part of the "sacred soil," which, by the way, e was not much "stuck" on, the much of it stuck to him, had many opportunities of verifying this assertion by not very heroic chapter in the life of means of both Union and Secession testimony. The States Rights theory was essentially a politician's mare's nest, The States Rights theory was the significance of which was lost on safeguard against the abolition of lavery and negro domination.

with the same problems that he faced, sentiment and even monstrous in doc-and the same perplexities perhaps agi-trine they may be. elations expected that he would throw ciple he has been schooled to out a word, she violently slammed the Grant the Magnanimous, of Stanton door in his face, and he heard the boit Seward, Sheridan, of all those great papushed into place. But even that harsh triots who toiled so terribly that the lesson falled to render him capable of Nation might live and the flag be maindoing "what Lee did."

Southern Loyalists.

Gen. Robert Anderson, the heroic lefender of Fort Sumter, who frankly told the rebel envoys that he sympa thized with the South in its contention, Mr. Adams makes a heroic figure of ditions:

legiance to the United States and tenders his resignation to Gen. Scott. This

Washington for the South. Somewhat differently, Robert E. Lee between two days surreptitiously discarded his form, wrote his resignation to Gen. Scott, which he arranged to have de-livered when he should be safely away, and without again seeing the chief who had been exceeding kind to him, skur-ried under cover of darkness across the Potomac and into the arms of the Confederacy. There was a story cur-rent in Washington that two colored men living there claimed to have been hired a day or two before Virginia seceded to fow Lee across the river whenever he gave the word. It was a

the intelligence of nine-tenths of the age. Everybody now has a chartered Southern people, who thought it meant right to express his opinion on every There are some names of men South-apotheocize its arch expositors; and it ern born and bred who stand out as is expected that a respectful and courshining examples in contrast with Rob- teous consideration will be accorded ert E. Lee. These men were confronted any such views however paradoxical in

tated them. But whether as the result of "most mature reflection." or some innate quality that he and his latest subdue his impulse to spring to the

Shades of Lincoln the Martyr, of tained unsullied, forbid such a desecration!

W. T. Sherman's Course.

Just before the breaking out of the Rouge, La., enjoying a lucrative and but nobly declared that he would not congenial position with a salary of betray his trust; Admirals David G. \$5,000 a year. He was the President spirit of complacency, for commercial or low degree of infamy, between that Farragut and John A. Winslow, the deconsiderations, the desire to strengthen kind of a traitor or any other kind. stroyer of the Alabama; Gens, John A. emy. Foreseeing just previous to the considerations, the desire to strengthen kind of a traitor or any other kind. stroyer of the Alabama; Gens. John A. emy. Foreseeing just previous to the wobbly district fences or in order to And to give force to his qualified stigwin a reputation for singularity, to give ma, Mr. Adams proudly declares: "And Southerners by birth and by the asso-able, and being a man of courage and a new nomenclature to divers old-fash-as the result of much patient study and ciations belonging to their nativity, of the most sensitive honor, he sent his ioned expressions obnoxious to certain most mature reflection, under similar took their stand instantly and uncom-sensitive souls, and so enwrap them, as conditions I would myself have done promisingly on the side of the Union, with the following noble letter—the ac resignation to Gov. Thomas O'Moore, and "under similar conditions" were tion and sentiments expressed offering subject to no temptation to do "exactly an illuminating contrast to the course of Robert E. Lee "under similar con-

Sir: As I occupy a quasi-military po-sition under this State, I deem it props how it actually happened:
Lee waited at Washington, drawing a position when Louisiana was a State er to acquaint you that I accepted such his pay and commutation, trusted and in the Union, and when the motto of relied upon by Gen, Scott, whose Chief the Seminary was inserted in marble of Staff he was, conversant in his conver the main door: "By the liberality the Government—waited without sign or word, or resigning as one would think an honorable soldier would have done, until word came that Virginia had voted to secede from the Union. The Union, I prefer to maintain my allegiance to the old Constifidential capacity with all the plans of the Government of the United States that relative to Mr. Adam's argument the Government—walted without sign —The Union, Esto Perpetua."

even been discovered that they with a clear conscience and a patriot's fiantly, in open day, proceeded to leave immediate steps to relieve me, as Sup- misericordiam, and let it go at that.

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The present is a polite and tolerant subject under the sun, even if he should publicly glorify treason and

sulogist did not possess, these men charge when so plain and inviting a could not make up their minds to "do defiance to controversy is thrust in his what Lee did." George H. Thomas, the face as these proselyte-like fulmina-ideal soldier, was born in Southampton tions, by the strangely chosen orator of County, Va.; his classmates, friends and the Lee anniversary, against every prinin his fortunes with his State when the sacred and in defense of which he has latter seceded. But he was unwaver-undergone the stress and shock of bat-ingl- loyal to his Flag, and nobly said: tle, been baptised in its blood and per-"I am an American first and a Vir-chance as a consequence has limped ginian next." Col. Henry C. Bankhead, through forty succeeding years of a pilwhose father was a distinguished General in the Mexican War, was a native of Fredericksburg, Va. He was at West Point with Gen, Grant. Altho his family were ardent Secessionists, the Coleman and hopeless misery. What wonder if his wounds bleed afresh and "smart to hear themselves remembered." when treason is extolled instead of being made odious, writer's own observation offered a strik-ing instance of the price that Col. Bank-foeman who could only have accom-Fredericksburg, which was held by our all his energies and exercised in the troops. One day Col. Bankhead rode highest degree his superior gifts to seinto the city, and went directly to the cure that triumph! And it is gall and ests."

family mansion. He had not seen any wormwood to the Union veteran to read

Dr. Johnson's acidulated remark at of his immediate relatives since hos- that as a crowning insult to loyal feeling this same idolator of Robert E. Lee loned knocker. In a moment someone has proposed that a statue to the rebel

rintendent, the moment the State de termines to secede; for on no earthly Baton Rouge, La. account will I do any act, or think and thought, hostile to, or in defiance of the old Government of the United

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ly any possibility be a tie in this the prize will be divided equally be-ween those so tieing.

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